

The White House: The Global Messenger

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

All Times EDT/Subject to Change

12:30 p.m. -- White House Briefing

1 p.m. -- State Department Briefing

6 p.m. -- President Bush meets with President Roh of South Korea

U.S., Other Nations Act to Support Innovation in Agriculture

The United States on Tuesday announced the U.S., Argentina, Canada, and Egypt will file a World Trade Organization case against the European Union over its illegal five-year moratorium on approving agricultural biotech products.

Agricultural biotechnology continues the practice of innovation that has boosted productivity, quality and choices and nourished the hungry.

Other countries expressing support for this case by joining it as third parties include: Australia, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru and Uruguay.

Frequently asked questions include:

Are biotech crops safe?

Yes. More than 300 million North Americans have been eating biotech foods for several years. No adverse health consequences have been reported. A number of biotech products have shown to be safe by both the U.S. and EU food safety approval systems.

What countries grow biotech products?

In addition to the U.S., with 96.3 million acres currently under cultivation, other leading biotech food producers are Argentina (33.3 million acres); Canada, (8.6 million acres); and China, (5.2 million acres).

Twelve (12) other countries grow more than 2.5 million acres of biotech crops each year: South Africa, India, Spain, Mexico, Indonesia, Honduras, Australia, Romania, Uruguay, Bulgaria, Colombia, and Germany.

TERRORISM IN SAUDI ARABIA

Excerpt from the President's Remarks, 5/13/03

"Today's attacks in Saudi Arabia, the ruthless murder of American citizens and other citizens, remind us that the war on terror continues. My thoughts and prayers and those of our fellow citizens are with the families of the victims of yesterday's murder in Saudi Arabia. We pray for them. We mourn the loss of life. These despicable acts were committed by killers whose only faith is hate. And the United States will find the killers and they will learn the meaning of American justice."

Excerpts from Secretary Powell's Remarks, 5/13/03

"These are people who are determined to try to penetrate facilities like this for the purpose of killing people in their sleep, killing innocent people, killing people who would try to help others. "...[I]t will not deter the United States, and I am sure will not deter Saudi Arabia, in our mutual effort to go after this kind of terrorism and roll it

up: go after their finances; go after their information systems, their intelligence systems; make sure we take full advantage of our law enforcement assets, both in the United States and Saudi Arabia and around the world."

LIBERATION UPDATE

The voices of freedom, now heard across Iraq

For more reactions to Operation Iraqi Freedom, visit "Liberation Update" at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/liberation>

"I am happy that Saddam is gone. The teachers told me to love Saddam. My parents told me he was a bad man."

-- **Dina, 7, U.S. News & World Report, 5/12/03**

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Office of Global Communications

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